GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4127
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
Bhagat Shri Sudarshan;Harnsrajbhai Shri Radadiya Vitthalbhai ;Pakkirappa Shri S.;Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of research undertaken in the field of agriculture during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the steps taken to improve such research in agriculture;

(c) whether there is scarcity of agriculture scientists in the field of research work;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) DARE/ICAR has undertaken its research programmes to meet the emerging challenges in its 97 institutes located in different parts of the country. Major areas of research covered during the last 3 years and current year are bio- prospecting and allele mining, biodiversity, transgenics, water, nutrient and energy management, post-harvest management, resource conservation technologies, organic farming, agricultural diversification, molecular vaccines & diagnostics, etc. During the fag end of Xth Plan, ICAR launched a major national programme viz., Mega Seed Project in agricultural crops and fisheries that gave a major impetus for supply of quality seed/planting material across the country. During 2008-09 ICAR has established an institute of Abiotic Stress Management to assess and quantify the effects of major abiotic stress on agriculture to address the issues of impact of climate change.

(b) The DARE/ICAR has completed the process of clearing 74 schemes during the XI Plan including several new initiatives to meet the emerging challenges in agriculture. Department has reoriented the functioning of 13 National Research Centres to work in Directorate mode of operation to address researchable issues to have single control and command. New tools of science such as market assisted selection, gene prospecting and allele mining, gene knock down technology, bioremediation etc have been incorporated in the on-going research programmes, with due capacity building of scientists through national and international training programmes and establishment of infrastructure. Besides, two new institutes are in pipeline viz., National Institute of Biotech Stress Management and Indian Institute of Agricultural Biotechnology, to serve as national centres of excellence for undertaking cutting edge research and excellence in education and training.

(c), (d) & (e): No, Madam, Research work has been managed by judicious redeployment of available scientific manpower. Steps have been initiated to get the vacancies in the scientific cadre filled up on top priority basis.